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**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/038,507

Examiner

James M Hewitt

Applicant(s)

HOPKINS ET AL.

Art Unit

3679

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed 4/5/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-9, 11-12, 14-15, 17, 22, 24, 23 and 25-26 renumbered as 1-19 respectively.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 1/2/02 w/replacement sheets of 9/12/03 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)</li> <li>2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)</li> <li>3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br/>Paper No./Mail Date <u>6/2/03</u></li> <li>4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br/>of Biological Material</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)</li> <li>6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br/>Paper No./Mail Date _____</li> <li>7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment</li> <li>8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance</li> <li>9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</li> </ol> |
|---|--|

*[Signature]*  
5/16/04

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Kevin Costanza on 5/13/04.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 1 line 3, the phrase "of like material" has been deleted.

In claim 22 line 1, "17" has been replaced with --14--.

In claim 23 line 3, "like" has been deleted.

In claim 23 line 8, the phrase "between 40 and 68" has been replaced with --approximately 54--.

In claim 23 line 11, the semicolon has been replaced with a period.

In claim 23 lines 12-13, the phrase "wherein the tangential contact angle is approximately 54 degrees from the coupling axis." has been deleted.

In claim 25 line 2, the phrase --for containing fluid at a pressure greater than or equal to 15,000 psi-- has been inserted after "system".

In claim 26 line 2, the phrase --for containing fluid at a pressure greater than or equal to 15,000 psi-- has been inserted after "system".

### REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record does not disclose, singly or in combination, the device as claimed in detail in claims 1, 9, 15, 17 and 23, or the method as claimed in detail in claims 25 and 26.

The closest prior art includes: Anglin et al (US 5,489,127), Haibara (US 6,045,162) and Hashimoto (US 5,172,939).

Anglin et al fail to teach or fairly suggest that the device is for fluids at pressures in excess of 15,000 psi, an ultrahigh pressure environment. Anglin's device is rather used in vehicle brake lines or fuel lines. There is no mention or suggestion that his device is applicable to or capable of being used in an ultrahigh pressure environment.

With respect to claims 1, 9, 17, 25 and 26, Haibara in view of Hashimoto does not teach or fairly suggest that one of the mating components (the fitting bore) has a convex, curved cross-sectional profile that contacts the linear cross-sectional profile of the other component (the vessel bore) in a substantially circular seal. With respect to claim 15, Haibara in view of Hashimoto does not or fairly suggest that the tapered mouth of the vessel bore contacts the tapered engagement portion of the fitting bore to form a circular seal that has a tangential contact angle approximately 54 degrees from the longitudinal and radial axes. With respect to claim 23, Haibara in view of Hashimoto does not teach or fairly suggest that a circular seal that has a tangential contact angle approximately 54 degrees from the coupling axis.

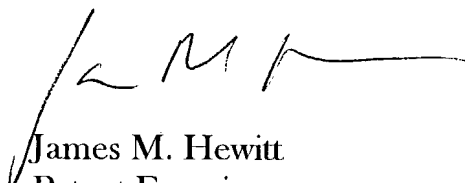
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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James M Hewitt whose telephone number is 703-305-0552. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 930am-600pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel Stodola can be reached on 703-308-2686. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



James M. Hewitt  
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